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during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 3. Prevailing diseases, malarial in character. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: October 11, steamship *S. Oteri*; crew, 34; passengers from this port, 4; passengers in transit, 7; pieces of baggage disinfected, 17. October 12, steamship *Bergenseren*; crew, 16; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none; schooner yacht *Adele*; crew, 7; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

J. GREY THOMAS,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Method of packing eggs for shipment—Plague cases and deaths.

HONGKONG, CHINA, September 16, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station for the week ended September 14, 1901. Nine vessels were inspected during the week, 902 individuals were bathed, and 1,291 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. Eleven persons were rejected during the week because of fever.

The usual inspection of freight and signing of shipping orders are still continued.

Dried meats, fowl, fish, and other perfectly dried food products have been passed during the week in accordance with Bureau telegram to Surgeon Carmichael, a copy of which was received at this office.

During the week visits were made to several shops where "salt eggs" are prepared for shipment. The materials used in the preparation for preserving the eggs are the ashes of rice straw and chaff, salt, and water. One hundred pounds of salt are mixed with about thirty gallons of the ashes, enough water being used to form a thick mass. Each egg is then enveloped in a layer of this material and packed in tubs. The eggs are not considered ready for use until they have remained in this mass for two months or longer.

Chemical analysis of 1 specimen showed that it contained over 9 per cent of salt, which would seem to render it free from danger of conveying plague.

No earth was used at the shops visited, but clay is undoubtedly used in the preparations coming from Shanghai.

Eleven cases of plague and 11 deaths were reported during the week, a slight increase as compared with the previous four weeks. The total cases reported thus far this year are, therefore, 1,740, with 1,639 deaths.

With the exception of 1 case of enteric fever, there were no other cases of communicable disease in the colony during the week.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.